EDITORIAL NOTES.

A "Candid Friend" contributes to our Correspondence Column, a letter to which we cannot take much exception. With us he seems tolerably satisfied; with our contributors he is less satisfied. We venture to retaliate by offering him two pieces of advice—join a veterinary medical society as soon as possible; make up for the shortcomings of others by sending us letters on "professional subjects of general interest." It is a remarkable fact that the practitioner who is most often heard complaining about the quantity and quality of veterinary literature, is the man who never, or hardly ever, sends a letter or article himself. There are a large number of professional topics which now require discussion. In April next we shall elect six new members of Council, and it is desirable that their views on each question should be known. It is even more desirable that the electors should have formed some definite ideas, so that their votes are not given to anyone who solicits them. The "Soundness or Unsoundness" of the profession; the educational standard, and the methods of examination; the joint holding of positions—as examiner and councilman, are only some of the questions which would bear discussion, and to which our columns are always open.

In our reports of "Contagious Diseases of Animals," it may be noticed every week that Glanders and Farcy are practically confined to London and the adjoining counties. During the week ending December 15th, 21 horses were attacked with glanders, 16 of which were in the Metropolis. With farcy 15 horses were attacked, 14 of which were in the Metropolis. This clearly shows that London is the great centre of the disease.

We pointed out a short time since the great danger this state of things constituted to our Army horses, if ever the Registration Scheme were put in force. A very large number of the horses registered are now members of London studs, and if amongst them a few cases of latent glanders existed, and they were called to join the Army, we should within a year not have a regiment, battery, or corps free from this fatal contagious disease. We repeat what we said before—that half the studs registered in London are infected studs, and that no veterinary expert, by the most careful examination, could detect the latent disease.

Considering that our Army is now free from glanders, it does seem the height of folly to permit the registration of horses amongst which glanders has been known to prevail for years. If the War Office will supply us with a list of studs registered in London, we shall be glad to supply proof of the infected state of a large number.

A prize fund, out of which rewards could be given to students for extra proficiency, or from which awards could be made to members who might take up some original research, would certainly be a good thing. It is also, we believe, a practicable object. If we once had a nucleus for such a fund subscriptions would come in, and our various Veterinary Medical Societies would probably help whenever some special research was deemed advisable. Probably, there is not much idle money in the profession, but there is some. There is about £60 balance remaining from the Veterinary Congress held some years ago, and this is simply idle. No better use could be made of it than to hand it to the Council in trust for a Prize Fund. There is an even larger sum than this belonging to the Veterinary Medical Society for so many years attached to the Royal Veterinary College. Of course, this sum is private property, but the students'-society cannot use it, and might well devote it to a fund from which they would draw their share in prizes. If these sums of money could be obtained, a prize might be founded for anatomical dissections, which would in time help to remove the stigma now attaching to the students of all our schools.

Prizes, doubtless, would only be competed for by a few, but the mere fact of seeing a good dissection always on the tables would certainly suggest to others an attempt at similar work. Constant careful dissection will make an anatomist, not only capable of satisfying his examiners at the end of a session, but capable of retaining his knowledge for years, and applying it in his practice of surgery.

ARTICLES AND CASES.

LATENT PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.—ITS DANGERS.

By J. M. Parker, M.R.C.V.S., Birmingham.

This history of an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia may perhaps be of interest in showing the fallacy of allowing any cattle to remain alive after the disease has broken out in a herd.

About the 21st of April last, I was called in as veterinary inspector, to examine twenty-four head of cattle at a farm in the county of W——. Seven were, I think, condemned as affected. Post-mortems made in all cases by myself, and the disease found in various stages. Twelve healthy cows were slaughtered, leaving a bull and four cows. These the local authority did not think it necessary to order to be killed, as no direct contact with the others could be proved. These animals were at first seen by me weekly, temperature taken and found normal health very good. In three weeks they were put out to pasture and seen every fortnight for about six weeks. On two occasions they were driven from the field in my presence to the farm yard, nearly a mile, and half of that distance up a steep hill, but I never noticed any acceleration of breathing, and the cows, although they all had logs chained round their necks to prevent straying, were apparently healthy, and in good spirits.

The owner, on July 1st, received an order from head quarters that he must not allow any beast to leave his farm alive. but he was then permitted to buy in fresh stock on condition that the next purchases should be carefully kept from contact with the original five. All went well till December 11th, when one of the five, a cow just about to calve, showed signs of "pleuro."

I examined her on the 13th and saw she was very badly affected. On the 16th she was slaughtered, and I made a post-mortem examination and found the right lung one solid mass, and adhering to the pleuru-costalis completely. I was not satisfied in my own mind that this cow was the only one of the five attacked, as I could not find any signs of long standing disease, so I had another of the lot killed that had calved about a week, she was in full milk and hearty, but there was a "pinny" condition of her hair; this, accompanied with some soreness on pressure of her chest. made me think that she probably had a bit of necrosed tissue. This turned out to be the case—two portions, each as large as a walnut, in the anterior lobe of the right lung, one just broken down, with adhesion corresponding to the diseased part, presented themselves.

I do not think there is any doubt about this cow having been attacked by the disease in April or May; but it was localised and confined to so small a space, that her general health was not perceptibly interfered with.

Had the local authority ordered the slaughter of these beasts in May, the County would have saved at least £40 in compensation. The cows were not then, of course, worth so much as now, three in December being heavy in calf and one in full milk, therefore valuable; especially at this time of year. Again, those carcases that passed as fit for food, were scarcely worth the expense of dressing, being anything but "Christmas beef."

One object of my writing is to call attention to the very long time—nearly eight months—that elapsed between the outbreaks; and one may ask the question:—of what use was "the 56 days" formerly named as the period at the expiration of which cattle might be moved from an infected place, and the place declared free, if no fresh case had occurred?

TUBERCULOSIS.

By Tedbar Hopkin, F.R.C.V.S.

The transmission of tuberculosis from one class of animal to another, is much easier and more common than is generally supposed.

A chain of facts I learned from an old college friend, having occurred in his practice, are worthy of record.

He was called in to see a cow belonging to a nobleman, and found it an advanced case of tuberculosis. It was killed; and at his suggestion, a heifer, a daughter of this cow, whose appearance was not satisfactory, was also slaughtered some short time afterwards. The post-mortem showed tubercles pervading the whole of the viscera.

This was followed by a serious outbreak of tuberculosis in the fowls on the same homestead, and in the rabbits on the estate, large numbers dying from it. In an adjoining village a rabbit warren was made to supply rabbits for coursing, and stocked with rabbits from the above mentioned estate. It broke out in this new warren to such an extent as to compel the owner to seek the opinion of my friend who, knowing the previous history of the outbreak, was enabled to trace it to its source.

He also gave me particulars of a case of tuberculosis in the horse. Personally I have never seen it in the horse, but, I believe the late Professor Robertson was of opinion that it did occasionally occur.

It is quite time more active steps were taken to prevent the milk from tuberculosed cows being consumed by human beings, and it is one of the things, if properly done, that would materially help to lessen our death-rate in infants.

PRACTICAL SURGERY.

By A. W. Briggs, M.R.C.V.S., Halifax.

Operation for Sidebone.

On September 4th, my attention was called to an aged draught horse which I found to be exceedingly lame of the near fore foot from ossification of the inner lateral cartilage.

With the owner's consent I decided to perform Mr. Smith's operation.

I divided the wall of the hoof in three places and had a bar shoe placed upon the foot.

Before operating, the measurement of the hoof, taken immediately below the coronet, was exactly eighteen inches. Fifteen days afterwards, when I next saw the animal, he walked comparatively free from lameness, the circumference of the hoof having increased three quarters of an inch. The animal resumed work on the eighteenth day and on the twenty-seventh day he was practically free from lameness, and the hoof measured nineteen and a quarter inches—an increase of one and a quarter inches.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Smith for his very practical and common-sense observations, and my simple desire in recording the above case is to be the means of inducing other practitioners to adopt the operation.

Neurotomy in Tetanus.

Some eighteen months ago, I performed neurotomy (simple division) above the fetlock, on the fore leg of a draught mare suffering from tetanus. The tetanus arose from penetration of foot by a piece of umbrella wire. In a few hours the jaws were relaxed, and the mare made a rapid recovery—complete sensation returning to the limb.

In a second case the operation was unsuccessful, but here the cause was obscure and undefined, though I was led to think it might be foot injury, as we detected a small puncture between the frog and the sole. As this animal belonged to the same owner, he insisted that I should operate.

Cases of tetanus arising from definite foot injuries are not every-day occurrence in one's practice, and I have since looked, in vain, for an opportunity of giving the operation another trial.

Perchance the above may tempt some one or more of your readers to give the operation a trial. If so, I should be glad if he, or they, would report the same through the medium of your columns.

Tracheotomy in Parturition.

Some time ago, I was innocent enough to believe, upon being told, that insertion of a tube into the trachea of a cow would reduce excessive labour-pains during parturition—a very desirable thing to be gained in some cases.

In practice, however, a tracheotomy tube, one and a half inches in diameter, failed utterly, when introduced into the trachea to make the least difference. Such, I now find, is the experience of several others who have given it a trial.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, November 16th, a meeting of the above-named association was held at the Hop Market Hotel, Worcester. Mr. R. C. Trigger (Newcastle-under-Lyne) the President, occupied the Chair, and amongst those present were Professor W. Owen Williams, (Edinburgh); Mr. J. B. Wolstenholme, (President of the Lancashire Veterinary Association); Messrs. J. M. Parker, H. M. Stanley, and Mark Tailby, (Birmingham); H. Olver, (Tamworth); R. H. Cartwright, E. Beddard, (Wolverhampton); F. B. Jones, (Leicester); F. Fletcher, (Coventry); W. S. Carless, F. H. Pinkett, and A. J. Cayless, (Worcester); F. W. Barling, (Ross); T. H. Merrick, (Northampton); Hills, (Leamington); Over, (Rugby); Chambers, (Dudley); R. R. Cole, John Firr, (Hinckley); George Smith, (Turnhill); G. Wartnaby, (Burton-on-Trent); James Blakeway, (Stourbridge); William Carless, (Stafford); H. Collett, (West Bromwich); the honorary treasurer F. Blakeway, (Kidderminster); and the hon. secretary J. Malcolm, (Birmingham).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced the receipt of letters regretting inability to be present; from Sir H. Simpson, (Windsor); Professors Mc Fadyean, Williams, and Walley, (Edinburgh); Messrs. Pyatt, (Nottingham); Taylor, (Manchester); Leather, (Liverpool); Freer, (Uppingham); Barling, (Newnham); Captain Russel, Messrs. Golden, (Martham); Green, (Dudley); Barker, (Rugby); Pritchard, (Wolverhampton); Goodall, Melton Mowbray, and Wragg, (London).

It was stated that Mr. H. R. Perrins, (Worcester); had written a letter resigning his membership of the Association, but it was decided to ask him to reconsider the matter.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Parker, Mr. W. Hunting, of Fulham Road, London, Editor of *The Veterinary Record*, was elected an honorary associate of the society.

The Cure of Roaring.

Mr. F. B. Jones, (Leicester); then proceeded to exhibit and explain his tracheotomy tube, and instruments used in the laryngeal operation for the cure of roaring. He said, that as they must all know, roaring was a paralysis of muscles ending in inability of those muscles to open what Mr. Clarke called the door of the larynx, for the admission of air. The paralysis of the muscles could not be cured, and the only thing was to do something to relieve the breathing, either by an operation on the larynx, or by making below an auxiliary opening and inserting a tube for the animal to breathe through. Mr. Jones showed by demonstration on a larynx of a horse, the method employed by him for the excision of the left vocal cord; of both vocal cords, and of the cartilage of Santarini; for the division of the arytenoids or separation of both arytenoids, and for the entire removal, by a lateral operation from outside, of the left arytenoid cartilage. The various ligature processes were next explained, and a description of the operation of tracheotomy with practical demonstrations followed. When inserted, the tube might be taken in and out once a day, at night the aperture should be closed by the plug. In anœstheticising a horse for the laryngeal operation he always employed the $\frac{A.}{1}\ \frac{C.}{2}\ \frac{E.}{3}$ mixture—Alcohol, one proportion; Chloroform, two; Ether.

three—as it diminished the risk of shock to the heart. When they had got the horse under the influence of that mixture they might go on with chloroform. With *care* they might in this way keep a horse down under its influence for two or three hours. It was necessary to bear in mind that in casting a horse and preparing him for an operation a considerable shock was inflicted, and if they administered the anœsthetic too hastily, they might get stoppage of the heart's action and breathing. It was best therefore, to wait a few minutes and to watch the animal's breathing. The reason why he preferred the A. C. E. mixture was because the ether was volatile and was given off most freely. When the mixture was first inhaled it was more stimulating, and compared with chloroform, less depressive to the heart, which would continue to pulsate for a short time even when breathing was stopped. Chloroform was less stimulating, and when concentrated, had a peculiar depressing effect on the heart's action, and if used carelessly by an inexperienced person, total arrest of breathing was likely to result. If the breathing ceased for a moment they should perform artificial respiration, which was best done by sitting up and down on the horse's side. In this way they could make the horse breathe for several minutes. Directly they saw any sign of stertorous breathing thay should pull the horse's tongue out of the mouth, and draw it forward, to relieve any mechanical obstruction. This also drew the epiglottis forward and enlarged the space for the admission of air. Stertorous breathing was liable to occur in roarers.

He found from experience that it was necessary to prepare a horse for a couple of days before an operation, especially if it was a long one, if the horse had to be anœstheticised; otherwise there was great trouble from abdominal pains, which were owing to the paralysis of the nerve centres of the bowels, produced by the anœsthetic.

Before an operation he, therefore, gave a horse plenty of linseed and mashes. They should never be in a hurry to get the horse up on his legs after chloroform, if they did, being stupified from the effect of the anœsthetic, he would not have the proper use of his limbs, and might tumble about and hurt himself. The best way was to let the horse sleep off the effects of the anœsthetic, so long as he was breathing properly,

He was not able to lay down any rule as to the quantity of chloroform and ether that should be used, but he had never been able to put a horse under the influence of chloroform with an ounce and a half. It was no use beginning the operation unless the patient was thoroughly under the influence of the anœsthetic, quite insensible to pain, and showing a perfect relaxation of his muscles, and abolition of the conjunctival and other reflex movements. In one case he had used as much as 36 ounces of the A. E. C. mixture.

The mixture should always be made up fresh before being used. The operator should ascertain the patient's pulse and heart's action. A quick pulse, as a rule, ensured the patient getting under the influence of the anœsthetic quicker; a full pulse and strong action of heart required more chloroform and ether. In several cases, he had noticed a paralysis of the off fore limb, but he could not say from what this arose. He did not know that chloroform had any local effect. The paralysed limb got right, but it was a great bother for a time.

Now Mr. Fleming claimed to have been the first to have proposed the excision of the left vocal cord for the cure of roaring, and he had been credited with having obtained the greatest achievement in veterinary surgery by so doing. He should like to say a word or two on this claim. It appeared to him something like an attempt to obtain credit which was not due. Mr. Fleming said no one ever opened the larynx in this country before his publication this year, but Mr. H. Clarke, and Mr. Horsely did it in 1887, and Mr. Gamgee some years ago. From a work by Dr. Möller, of the Berlin Veterinary School, it appeared that twenty-five years ago, K. Gunther had performed these operations, viz.—1st, excision of both vocal cords; 2nd, excision of left vocal cord; 3rd, excision of the left vocal cord and sacculus laryngus; 4th, complete removal of arytenoid cartilage; 5th, various partial removals of arytenoids. He met with no success except in the 5th, partial removal of the arytenoids. Gerlach performed a partial excision of the arytenoid; result unsatisfactory.

Stockfleth excised the upper part of the arytenoid and applied cautery; result unsatisfactory. Various operators had repeated Stockfleth's operation; but also with unsatisfactory results.

An operation for the excision of the vocal cord was described by Goubaud in 1869. Möller himself had performed various operations: (1) excision of the vocal cord, same result as Gunther, quite useless; (2) opening crico-arytenoid joint from incision through cricoid and first two rings of trachea; (3) myostomy of left crico-artyenoideus posticus with a view to shortening muscles from cicatricial contractions; (4) fastening arytenoid and thyroid together by ligature; (5) complete excision of arytenoid from within. There were some favourable results from the last three forms of operation, especially number 5.

The work from which Mr. Jones quotes the latter is:—Das Kehlkopf Pfeifen, der Pferde, Hemiphlegia Laryngis, by Dr. H. Möller, Veterinary School, Berlin. Published at Stuttgart, 1888.

In conclusion, Mr. Jones said he did not believe they yet thoroughly knew the physiology of the larynx. They wanted to know more precisely the action of the parts during life, during breathing. Up to the present time the operation for the removal of the vocal cords was in an experimental stage.

The President remarked that they were all indebted to Mr. Jones for the able and kindly manner in which he had brought the subject before them.

It was decided to defer discussion till a future meeting, when Mr. Jones promised to again deal with the subject.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A number of specimens showing tubercle bacilli and tuberculosis from the various domestic animals,

kindly lent for the occasion by Professor McFadyean, were exhibited under microscopes. In most specimens the bacilli were seen very clearly, and were particularly distinct in sections from a cat's lung, and from the glands of a horse. Professor Williams also exhibited a well marked specimen of tubercle bacilli in expectorate.

Mr. Olver in opening a discussion on tuberculosis said their President had suggested to him, at first, that they should limit it to urging upon the powers that be, the advisability of including this disease in the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals') Act. He was able, however, to inform the President that it was practically decided to so include it, and no doubt in a short time it would be an accomplished fact, and known to the country generally. He thought they would all admit it was quite right tuberculosis should be included with the other diseases named in the Act. He need not go into any detailed history of the subject. They were all aware that a comparatively few years ago it was a disease about which very little was known. It was called by various local names in different parts, such as "gropes" "wasters," and "augliberries," occasionally animals were found to die from it; but the true pathology of the disease was not recognised. There were all sorts of symptoms with regard to it, but it was not until microscopes of considerable power were used in 1880, or 1882, that the tubercle bacillus was recognised. Since that time a great advance had been made in knowledge of the subject, and also it would seem in the progress of the disease itself. Veterinary surgeons who practised in country districts knew that amongst cattle particularly, it was one of the most prevalent of diseases; and he believed himself it was the cause of greater loss to agriculturalists than all the other contagious diseases put together. With cattle-plague and pleuro-pneumonia the animals were slaughtered, and they knew the end of it. But tuberculosis was so insidious, so general in its attacks. All kinds of animals were affected; and, he believed, it was no exaggeration to say it was one of the greatest losses with which the farmer had to contend. He remembered that at the first Veterinary Congress held in London, he thought in 1880, an able paper on tuberculosis, written by Mr. Smith, was discussed. At that time the tubercle bacillus was not known, and it was generally considered, not only by the profession, but by the owners of animals, that the disease was attributable to a great extent to in-and-in breeding, to feeding for early maturity, and some went so far as to say that artificial manures had a great deal to do with it. It seemed strange that since more had been known of the disease, it had made a considerable advance. Unless they would put a stop to it—and that was a difficult matter. because of its insidiousness—it would become an even greater bane than it now was. It was unnecessary for him to deal with the symptoms of the disease.

There had been some letters lately in the Journals on the subject: and one writer said that unless they could detect tuberculosis in the early stage, they did not know their business. But he considered it was a most difficult disease to detect in the early stages, and even in the later stages many would have difficulty in distinguishing between consolidated lung, pleuro-pneumonia, and tuberculosis. He saw a good suggestion made the other day, which might probably be worth trying. It was that they should inoculate some guinea-pigs with tubercle matter, which would generate the disease in that animal, and so enable them to satisfy themselves that it was tuberculosis. He had spoken more particularly of the effect of the disease on the bovine species, but it was generally acknowledged that almost all animals might be attacked by it, not exactly in the same form, but very much on the same lines. It was thought, a few years ago, that horses were not susceptible to it, but there had been he believed, some very clear cases, in which it was shown horses were susceptible. Dogs, cats, and rabbits were susceptible. Pigs also had it—his experience was that they did continually. Some time ago he was speaking on the subject to a distinguished member of the profession, who said he knew of no instance of tuberculosis in pigs. In going round the slaughter-houses of his town, he (Mr. Olver) was led to believe, in that district at least, the pigs were as liable to take the disease as the cow, if not more so. Poultry it was proved were susceptible to it. He remembered reading of the case in which a man leaving his native village in the hills in Germany, where phthisis had never been known, and serving for a period in the army, where he contracted the disease (phthisis), went back home and married. His wife died, and so did he, from the disease; and the poultry at the house from eating the sputum of the patients, became affected, and so conveyed the complaint to the poor people by whom they were consumed, and so phthisis was spread throughout the village. Tuberculosis was unquestionably communicable from animals to man, and *vice-versa;* and this fact made it more important than many other diseases, with which they were acquainted. It had been a question of some discussion as to how it might be communicated from one animal to another, but he thought it was pretty generally recognised at the present time that it might be handed from one animal to another by ingestion, or food, or milk, inoculation, or inhalation. It was said one bull might spread it amongst a whole herd, and the bacillus had been detected in the placental membranes of the female. He believed there had been a question up to a short time ago as to whether milk could be affected, and could transmit the disease. Professor Brown asked him if he met with a bad case to send him the living animal, and shortly afterwards finding a cow which had calved three days before, suffering from acute tuberculosis, he purchased her and sent her to the Professor. He wrote back that upon examination he found the milk teeming with bacilli. Yet so far as one could see, when the cow went from his neighbourhood, the milk was comparatively healthy, and if she had not been so disposed of, the owner would have sold the milk. That being so, he thought, there was no doubt milk would transmit the disease therefore the human population—the infantine population particularly—were very liable to become

affected with tuberculosis (phthisis). He believed it was generally understood that the tubercle bacillus was not found, as a rule, in the muscles of animals, or in the blood stream, but they knew it might be found in almost any part of the body. It might exist in the centre of a rump steak. It was a question then whether the flesh of animals affected should be used for human food. In the midland counties generally, he believed, the flesh of the great majority of these animals was eaten. Speaking generally, no doubt there were few cases in which tuberculosis followed the consumption of the flesh of diseased animals; but he was inclined to think that in all bad cases the meat should be condemned. It was said, and no doubt rightly, that the disease was more generally found in large towns and crowded districts, than in the country. That might be explained by the fact that the parasites would have less effect upon animals in a strong healthy condition in the country, than upon animals debilitated as they generally were in the towns. In the towns, cows were often fed simply to produce milk, they became generally more or less debilitated, their condition was often anything but a natural one; their sheds were in anything but a sanitary condition; and in such a state the diseased pustules got a greater hold and increased in numbers, and in the end the death of the animal occurred. One branch of the subject he should like to mention was this: whether the tubercle bacillus could be found in milk in which the udder itself was not actually affected. It was not an easy matter in the first place, however, to detect whether the udder was or was not affected. It appeared to him a question whether, as a profession, they should not let it go forth to the public that this disease should be included in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and as to what would be the best means of escaping the danger which existed from it. If any action was to be taken, he thought it was absolutely necessary that the cow sheds should be periodically inspected by qualified professional men. At present they knew the majority of dairies were inspected by policemen, who knew nothing whatever about the subject. If it became known that the consumption of milk from tuberculosis cows was a danger, the public would compel the Government sooner or later to say that the inspection of dairies should become a matter for qualified veterinary surgeons only, that the inspections should be frequent, and that the inspectors should have power over the animals, and not simply over the cleansing and ventilation of the sheds. As the meat was more or less dangerous it becomes a question whether slaughter-houses or abattoirs should not be inspected by veterinary men, who should have the power to prevent the sale of the flesh of animals which had suffered from tuberculosis. Another thing that was necessary was that notification of the existence of the disease should be made compulsory under some stringent law. No doubt a great many diseases of this kind were allowed to go on, the animals being put out of the way, and nothing heard of the matter. There should be compulsory notification of the disease, and then a qualified man called in, his opinion to be final and acted upon at once. In Denmark, he was told, dairies were inspected every fortnight. He thought that in this country they should be inspected, at least, once every month or two.

In the course of the discussion which followed:

Mr. Parker said he had heard Mr. Olver's remarks with great pleasure. There was no doubt a great deal of tuberculous meat came to Birminham. He was frequently consulted as to its fitness for human food and invariably condemned it. He was astonished to hear Mr. Olver state that a distinguished member of the profession had said tuberculosis did not exist in pigs. He had seen it as often in pigs as in animals. Not long ago he had a case in which there were large deposits of tubercle matter in the vertebræ. He had not seen so much of the disease in sheep as in other animals.

Professor Williams said he thought, as was the case with the germ theory, knowledge of this disease had come with such a rush that a great number of diseases, not tubercle, were apt to be included with it. They wanted to have laid down some exact rules which would assist them in saying whether an animal was affected with tuberculosis or not. In cattle there seemed to be two distinct forms of tuberculosis, that attacking "piners" or "wasters" and that from which fat cattle fed for the Christmas market suffered. He could not understand how it was a disease due to a specific germ could have two such distinct characters, in one case causing pining, and in the other cause the animal to fatten. He did not think the disease could be exactly the same. He thought there was a tendency when an animal had fluke or an enteric affection, and abscesses were found in the liver or kidneys, as the result of the absorption of deleterious matter from the bowels, to call it tuberculosis. It was a most difficult disease to diagnose. He was firmly of opinion at present, that the horse did not take tuberculosis. The difficulty they had to deal with in settling the point was that the bacillus of glanders and the bacillus of tuberculosis were identical in size and shape. He believed the so-called cases of tuberculosis in horses were really cases of glanders. Another thing necessary to learn was the period of incubation. Mr. Storey had demonstrated that the disease was transmitted by a bull to some cows, appearing in eleven days. He thought the majority of professional men would agree with him that unless there was a tubercle point in the mammary gland, the milk was not affected. As to tuberculosis existing in muscle, it was stated in a French work, that in 200 cases which were examined, not a trace of the bacillus was found in the muscle. He had a specimen of a cow's heart round which there was an enormous deposit of tubercle growth, whilst there was not a trace in the muscular tissue.

Mr. Wolstenholme said he agreed with Professor Williams that unless the mammary gland was affected the milk was not likely to produce tuberculosis. He should think the mammary gland was one of those which were least frequently invaded by the disease. Boiling the milk would destroy any

baccilli it might contain. He thought they should do all they could to emphasise the point as to the better inspection of dairies, and the necessity of appointing veterinary surgeons to do the work.

Professor Williams had expressed the opinion that these were two distinct diseases included under tuberculosis, he (Mr. Wolstenhome) did not think that was the case, and for analogy referred to the fact that acute glanders with its rapid fatality, and chronic farcy sometimes lingering for years, were as unlike each other as were tuberculosis in piners and tuberculosis in fat cattle, yet no one looked upon glanders and farcy as two distinct diseases. At one time he thought, like the Professor, that horses did not suffer from tuberculosis, but he had now seen cases of what he could regard as nothing else than tuberculosis in horses. Green evidently believed in equine tubercle, and in his pathology there was an illustration of the tubercle bacilli of horses.

Mr. MALCOLM (Hon. Sec.) said they were indebted to the previous speakers for the lucid manner in which they had dealt with the subject before them. His practice was confined to horses but he had not seen a case of equine tuberculosis, nevertheless he believed in its existence. Professor Williams had told them that he did not believe there was such a thing as tuberculosis of horses, and that the so-called cases were simply mistaken glanders, and that there was no difference between the tubercle bacilli and the glanders bacilli; but he seemed to have forgotten a very important fact which they ought to bear in mind and that was the clinical aspect of the case. It was scarcely possible for any one to confound glanders and tubercle when looked at clinically. In the one case they had a highly contagious rapidly-spreading disease which if unrecognised soon spread broadcast over the country, in the other they had a disease of a very slow insidious character. Amongst other cases recently recorded one of hereditary tuberculosis in the horse described by Mr. Freer, of Uppingham was of particular interest. The foals of one dam had died off one after the other from tuberculosis. These cases could not possibly be confounded with glanders, and when in such like cases the presence of tubercle bacilli had been demonstrated by competent authorities, as had been shown them that day, he thought they were fully justified in holding that tuberculosis of horses did exist. He had seen the disease frequently in pigs, and was particularly struck with the case referred to by Mr. Parker in which there was a tubercular deposit in the centre of the body of a lumbar vertebra. With reference to the percentage of the disease amongst cattle it was stated at the British Medical Association's Meeting by Dr. Carpenter that 80 per cent. of the cattle sent to the principal meat market in London were affected with it. Professor McCall at the same meeting said that 25 per cent. would be nearer the mark in Glasgow. In Birmingham it was not so prevalent, still it existed to a large extent. With reference to what had been said as to the danger of eating the meat and using the milk of tubercular subjects, meat was particularly free from tubercle, it was usually well cooked and was not therefore a source of much danger. It was different with milk, which was generally consumed uncooked, and when from a tuberculosis source was very dangerous.

The PRESIDENT said he thought a resolution should go forth from that meeting that the time had come when tuberculosis should be made a contagious disease under the Act, and that the inspection of meat and milk supply should be improved and placed in professional hands.

Mr. OLVER in replying said that in his practice he had seen many cases of what he believed to be tuberculosis in horses, but only one case of glanders. He thought also with reference to the milk question that tuberculosis was frequently found in the mammary gland.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Stanley, a resolution was passed as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this Association the time has arrived when tuberculosis should be included in the Contagious Diseases Animals Act, and that the inspection of abattoirs and dairies, at present so imperfectly conducted in this country, should be improved and transferred from police officers to qualified professional men."

A vote of thanks was accorded to Professor McFadyean for the loan of specimens of the tubercle bacilli exhibited at the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. W. S. Carless, seconded by the Secretary, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Jones for his address; and on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Smith, a similar vote was accorded to Mr. Olver.

The usual vote of thanks to the President brought the meeting to a close. Subsequently the members of the Association and visitors dined together, the President occupying the chair, and Mr. Parker the vice-chair. "The health of the Visitors" was given by Mr. Parker and acknowledged by Professor Williams and Mr. Wolstenholme.

The next meeting of the Association will be held in Birmingham in February, when Professor Penberthy will give an address.

EXTRACTS.

RATTLEWEED OR LOCO-DISEASE.

By DR. J. P. KLENCH, V.S.

I consider it may be of great interest to veterinary science to describe the effect of the rattleweed plant on horses and cattle in the large pastures of Nebraska, Kansas, Texas and the Territories. It is called Rattleweed, or Loco-disease, or Crotalism, and has not been described by any veterinarian in Europe or on this Continent.

In September, 1887, a farmer called on me and asked my advice for his "rattleweeded" horses. I had never seen such patients before I reached this man's ranch, where I found several horses showing great excitement; they could not be approached, so a close examination was impossible. I prescribed

one drachm of bromide of potassium for each one every evening in the feed, and two weeks later the horses were all right and at work. Upon this happy result, I thought I had a sure cure for rattleweed. But there is many a slip between the cup and the lip; and that was the first and last cure I ever effected. Nevertheless, I intended to follow up the disease, and found a good opportunity at the next ranch, where all the mules and horses were affected. I drove up to this man's place and offered to cure his animals. "All right," said the man, "there is a mule that came near killing me this morning. I had to knock her down with a fence rail and tied that heavy chain, twenty feet long, on a fore-leg, to keep her from jumping at me." I kept at a fair distance from that mule, but there was a family horse, very quiet, that I accepted for study.

Symptoms.—They vary greatly in intensity, according to the temper of the animals and the quantity of the plant taken. The eyes are staring, sunken, glassy, pupil dilated, but able to contract when exposed to sudden light; horse cannot calculate distance, nor dimensions, nor nature of objects. When seeing a small object such as a bar or a rope, lying in his way, he will leap over it as if it were four feet high; a barn near at hand seems to be far off, and one at a distance, near-by. He will go headlong against a barn, a rock or any obstacle as if he were totally blind; he will let me get close to him, then suddenly run away and suddenly stop, stare and look like a mad horse. He cannot see the manger with feed, although knowing its usual place; membranes of eyes injected and infiltrated He walks with difficulty, shows a feeble and uncertain gait; lifts the legs up like a blind horse, will not back under any circumstance, wants to go in the opposite direction to which I pull him; cannot turn around; when the rope pulls on the neck very hard, he grunts; seems to like the rubbing of the temporo-auricular muscles, and throws the head excitedly sideways when I pinch the base of the ears or behind and over the occipital bone. The horse eats and drinks, but slowly, and at times stops masticating while the mouth is full of feed and some hay hanging partially outside; seems to have no taste, as I have seen this horse and mule eat grain while two ounces of pulv. barbad. aloes were mixed with it; they never knew the difference. They are generally very excitable; if a quick motion is made before the animal, such as throwing up the arms, chicken flying over the fence, slapping of doors, etc., they are greatly frightened, and tremble all over, especially in muscles of head, neck and fore-legs. Sometimes a horse, and more so a mule, is suddenly seized as with mania, in which he gets very excited and quite uncontrollable and even dangerous. I have seen the son of the house, standing three yards away from this old gentle family horse, stretch his hand towards the horse's face, and hardly did he notice the hand in that position but the horse lay his ears, stretched out his head and neck, opened his mouth and made a sudden plunge towards the boy, who had to run for his life; one moment later he approached him from the side without danger. This would indicate hallucination. When left alone the animals will stand quiet, stupid, with head down, half asleep, and might stand thus much of the time for a whole week, with head often resting against some object. The head might be drawn towards the breast or stretched out.

The appetite diminishes with the progress of the disease. Although tolerably good in the period of over excitement, still the animal will lose flesh gradually and become poorer as the disease advances, so that when coma sets in they will stop eating altogether, and become entirely emaciated and die at last from sheer exhaustion.

The artery is very small; pulse so feeble that it cannot be taken; pulsation of heart also very weak, cannot be counted with the hand, but on ausculation I was able to count thirty-eight pulsations; respirations five per minute; venous pulse visible at a distance.

Causes.—There is no doubt but that this disease is caused by the loco-plant, or rattleweed. Prof. Sayre of the Kansas State University, Department of Pharmacy, gives a full description of the plant and says that the crazy-weed means only two plants, the Astragalus Mollissimus and Oxytropis Lamberti, both belonging to the natural order of Leguminosæ. They grow on high grounds or rather dry soil which is also gravelly and sandy; they can be found also in the valleys. especially on uncultivated land, alongside the public roads and railroads. Every few years they make their appearance again on cultivated lands, when they are cut with the crop, thrashed and mixed with grain and straw. That explains how this disease is absent for a few years and then again becomes very violent, as I have remarked it around Modesto and the whole San Joaquin Valley. But in large pastures that are never plowed up, and where the plants are growing year in, year out, the stock is liable to eat it in the summer when feed is short. They bloom about June and bear a bright colored flower, yellow or bluish purple color, developing large pods, resembling the pea, but containing a number of black or yellow hard seeds. Pro. Sayre has made several chemical analyses of the dried plant, but no traces of any alkaoid were detected.

In order to ascertain the effect of this plant upon animals, Dr. Harding made the following experiments with loco-plant. One experiment was made in the pasture with two horses, both having fed on loco. One of these horses found a good deal of rattleweed in his field, while the other one had none, because the plant had been carefully removed. The first horse died in the pasture; the second one recovered. For the second experiment he placed two horses similiarly affected in the barn. One received dried loco feed, the other one was fed on clean hay. That first one died; the last one recovered.

Professor Stalker says, that the symptoms in some cases bore such resemblance to those produced by eating Astragallus Mollissimus or loco-plant of the Western plains, as to direct his investigations to that family of plants. But on careful examination of the meadows and pastures, he could not discover a single loco-plant. However, he succeeded in finding a closely related plant called, Crotalaria Sagittalis, or Rattlebox, also known as the wild pea.

In order to test the effects of this plant, he prepared a strong infusion of the plant and administered it by means of a stomach pump. In twenty minutes, stupor began to appear and all the symptoms were clearly defined. At the end of six hours, the stupor disappeared, and in another hour the horse began to eat. The following day, when he had apparently recovered from these effects, he was given half the quantity of the drug as on the previous day. Now the symptoms were developed much quicker and death arrived in one and a half hours. Professor Stalker, now State Veterinarian in Iowa, calls this disease crotalism, from the name of the plant, Crotalaria Sagittalis, which belonging closely to the same family and species of plants, will make no difference as to the real cause of the rattleweed disease, and this is proven to satisfaction by the above experiments.

Professor Sayre has failed after repeated analysis to detect any kind of alkaloid in the loco-plant, and gives us no indication as to the true essence of the irritating element. There must be an unknown agent that causes some irritation of the nervous system. The true nature of this irritating agent awaits more complete analyses of the plant, and more thorough study in its different stages of the disease before and after death.—*Veterinary Review.*

GOVERNMENT VETY. DEPARTMENT.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN ANIMALS.

Reported in Great Britain and Ireland in the week ending December 15th, 1888.

Pleuro Pneumonia—In England 6 fresh outbreaks of this disease were reported in the counties of Essex, Kent, Norfolk, Worcester, and York (W.R.) No fresh outbreak occurred in Scotland during the week. The number of cattle attacked in England was 10, and 1 case was found in Fifeshire, in Scotland, among a lot of cattle slaughtered on an infected farm. There were 177 healthy cattle, which had been exposed to infection, slaughtered in England, and 58 in Scotland. In Ireland there was only 1 animal attacked with pleuro-pneumonia during the week, but no fresh outbreak was reported.

Anthrax—Of this disease 4 fresh outbreaks were reported in England, in the counties of Lincoln (Holland), Northampton, Somerset, and the Metropolis; 2 were also reported in Renfrewshire, in Scotland. There were 10 animals attacked by this disease in the week, 4 of which were cattle sent for sale in the Metropolitan cattle market, and which died in the lairs. In Ireland, 3 fresh outbreaks of anthrax were reported in Kilkenny, and 3 animals were attacked by it.

Swine Fever—There were 96 fresh outbreaks of this disease reported on during the week, 95 of which were in England, and 1 in Wales. The number of swine attacked was 612; of the diseased pigs 279 were killed, 306 died, 31 recovered, and 578 remained alive at the end of the week. In Ireland 7 outbreaks were reported, and 23 pigs attacked.

Glanders and Farcy—There were 13 fresh outbreaks of glanders reported during the week, 9 of which occurred in the Metropolis, the others in the counties of Herts, Kent, Surrey, and York (W.R.); 21 horses were attacked with this disease, 16 of which were in the Metropolis, and 1 in Lanarkshire.

Of farcy 12 fresh outbreaks were reported; 11 in the Metropolis, and 1 in Hants; 15 horses were attacked, 14 of which were in the Metropolis.

No cases of either glanders or farcy were reported in Ireland during the week.

Rabies—In England 2 cases of rabies in dogs were reported in Surrey and York (W.R.). There were 8 cases of this disease reported on in Ireland, 3 cattle and 2 dogs in Monaghan, 1 dog in Cork, 1 dog in Fermoy, and 1 pig in Kerry.

REVIEWS.

Report on Eruptive Diseases of the Teats and Udders of Cows in relation to Scarlet Fever in Man,

By Professor Brown, C.B.,
Agricultural Department, Privy Council Office.

Eyre & Spottiswood, London; Adam & C. Black, Edinburgh; Hodges, Figgis & Co., Dublin; Price 4/3.

The recently issued "Report on Eruptive Diseases of the Teats and Udders of Cows in relation to Scarlet Fever in Man," is one of the most thorough and logical refutations of an error that has ever been written.

It will be remembered that in December, 1885, an outbreak of Scarlatina occurred in Marylebone, which was undoubtedly associated with the distribution of milk from a particular dairy.

Failing to trace the exact method by which the milk had become contaminated with Scarlatina poison, Dr. Power examined the cows in the dairy and found some of them affected with a disease of the udder and teats. Upon this slender evidence he founded the theory that the cow disease infected the milk, and was the direct cause of the scarlatina.

This theory seemed to derive some support from a series of experiments and observations made by Dr. Klein, who proved that the disease was communicable from one cow to another, and that in the matter taken from the cows' teats there was a micro-organism which exactly resembled an organism found in some cases of human scarlatina.

Dr. Power's theory depends solely upon the negative evidence, that he was unable to discover any direct human infection of the milk, and upon the coincidence of a cow disease in the dairy with the outbreak of disease in the human subject. Dr. Klein's experiments carry the assumption that the organism, found both in the human and cow disease, is the specific germ of scarlet fever.

The correctness of this theory was widely accepted by the medical profession and the public press. A very tangible new danger was apparently added to the use of one of the primary requisites of life, and it seemed as if milk, unless boiled, might al-

most be scheduled as a poison. The public importance of the subject and the serious injury inflicted upon agriculture and dairy industries by allowing so grave a suspicion to remain undecided, led the Government to order a further investigation. This was entrusted to the Agricultural Department, and the report before us is the result.

The report is written by Professor Brown, who gives a masterly analysis of the various reports sent in by the other scientific men who worked at the subject in various places and under all conditions likely to elucidate the truth.

Professor Crookshank reports on one or two outbreaks of cow disease; on Scarlet Fever in man; on a Strepto-coccus alleged to be the specific contagium in Scarlet Fever. The conclusions we draw from his evidence are:—that cow-pox is not uncommon in cows, that "the Hendon disease" was simply cow-pox, and that the effects of cow-pox on man are well known. That the post-mortem appearances seen by Klein in the Hendon disease were of a septic nature, that the post-mortem appearances of a similar characterd sometimes seen in scarlet fever patients are also septic, and not indicative of the specific disease. That the Streptococcus described by Klein is a septic microbe found in very many diseases as a secondary result.

Professor Mc Fadyean reports on two outbreaks of "cow-disease" in which children consumed the milk and did not develope scarlatina. He also details a most carefully planned and executed series of experiments with the object of transmitting scarlet-fever from man to animals.

The poison was introduced into the system of cows and calves by every possible channel of the body, only to demonstrate the absolute insusceptibility of the animals to infection.

Mr. Sidney Villar, M.R.C.V.S., of Harrow, who saw the original Hendon disease, reports upon its clinical appearance, and also describes six similar outbreaks in other dairies, which he considers identical with that supposed to have spread scarlatina. The milk from these other dairies was used as usual but no disease could be traced to it, either on the farms or in the district throughout which it was distributed.

Professor Duguid reports on his inspection of the Metropolitan Dairies. He examined 630 sheds containing 9,585 cows. He failed to find any contagious eruptive disease on the udders or teats. The owners of the dairies recognised the disease he was looking for from his description, but said they had recently seen very little of it, and never connected its existence with any disease in their own families. Scarlatina was at this time prevalent in London, but the Inspectors of the Metropolitan Board of Works told him "they had never known so few cases of that disease among the families of dairymen and milk sellers."

Professr Axe in his report traces the origin of the original Hendon cow-disease to three cows bought at Derby. These three cows were brought to Hendon with 27 others by Mr. Keevil, a dealer, who also sold eight to a dairyman at Merton, and three to another dairy at Hendon. All three dairymen recognised the disease as one transmissible from cow to cow, and as producing sometimes an eruption on the hands of the milkers. The Merton cows infected two milkers, and Mr. Bates, a medical practitioner, stated that the men "were suffering from a well-developed attack of vaccinia." No scarlet fever or scarlatina appeared on these dairies, or in the milk distribution from them. Professor Axe devoted some time to the question of the possibility of human contagion having reached the milk from the Hendon dairy, and discovered that Scarlet fever existed in November, 1885, at the Mead —a place 600 yards from the dairy; that six men who daily worked at the dairy, lived at the Mead, and that a boy whose sister had scarlatina "spent much of his leisure time at the dairy." Here is at any rate, a strong possibility of human contamination of the suspected milk.

Dr. T. W. Heine, the Medical Officer of Bradford, where compulsory notification of contagious disease is enforced, also sends a report on the alleged relation of scarlet fever in his district to the distribution of milk, and is unable to trace any connexion between the disease of cows and the disease of man.

A series of very beautiful colored plates are appended, showing the appearance of cow-pox in its various stages, also the appearance of the Strepto-coccus of Klein and Crookshank. That the drawings represent the same organism there can be no doubt. That the drawings are correct may be accepted, as Professor Brown finishes his report with the sentence: "The preparations from which Professor Crookshank's drawings were made are in the possession of the Agricultural Department."

No more absolute refutation of an error has ever been made. Not one single point upon which the original theory of Dr. Power was based has been overlooked. Negatively and positively this report demonstrates that Scarlet fever cannot be transmitted to bovines, and that no disease of animals has been shown to have any relation to Scarlet fever in man. Milk is not contaminated at its source; and the veterinary profession has not overlooked a common disease of cows.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Surgeon-Major Ince on the Veterinary Profession:

From a report of the General Meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, published in last week's "Live Stock Journal," we quote the following "presumption."

Surgeon-Major Ince said he wished to refer to the subject of diseases of cattle, sheep, and swine. Now, he had ventured to *presume* on a former occasion to question the steps which were being taken with the result of what was called "stamping out the disease." It was a fallacious idea altogether. ("No, no.") A veterinary surgeon, perhaps with very little experience in the diseases of cattle—and he said this advisedly—came in and

pronounced the disease to be of a contagious pleuro-pneumonic character, and the butcher was sent for. He *presumed* to say that the veterinary profession had not sufficiently studied the subject of diseases to be able to pronounce upon these outbreaks. (Ironical cheers.) Surgeon-Major Ince then proceeded to comment upon the alleged communication of scarlet fever through the consumption of the milk of cows affected with an eruptive disease of the udder and teats. He was pleased to notice that the Royal Veterinary College had these diseases under examination, and he hoped that eventually it would be to the advantage of the farming members of that Society.

Mr. THOMAS DUCKHAM said that the almost random remarks of Surgeon-Major Ince as to the diagnosis of diseases in cattle should not be allowed to pass without some reply being made to them. Surely that gentleman must have been in a trance for the last three years, or he would not talk in the manner in which he had done. In 1883 they had foot-and-mouth disease, extending throughout the length and breadth of the land, causing many hundred thousand pounds to be sent abroad for the food of the people—(hear, hear)—ruining families and sending up the price of meat to an almost famine price. It was well known and a source of gratification that the regulations enforced and the manner in which the restrictions were applied had thoroughly freed the nation from foot-and-mouth disease, and they had not had a single case since October, 1885. (Loud cheers). Yet for the previous forty-five years, it had raged more or less throughout the country, and the nation was never free from it during that long period. This was enough to convince the most sceptical of the desirability of continuing the regulations and keeping the nation free from the disease. With regard to pleuro-pneumonia, that disease killed very quickly, it was very contagious, and he was thankful to know that the diagnosis of the disease was far better understood than it was a few years ago. A disease which occupied sometimes a fortnight, and from a fortnight to six to seven months for its development, should be dealt with with a strong hand, or the country would never be free from it. With regard to compensation, unless the Legislature dealt fairly and liberally with the men who suffered their herds to be slaughtered, they would never get at the truth and have the disease stamped out. (Cheers.) But it must be borne in mind that not only were the cows sacrificed, but also the unborn calves, and the land could not be restocked for a considerable period. The only regret he had was that the compensation was not from the National Exchequer but from the local rates."

The mutual recognition and assistance now so general between the two professions renders it unnecessary for us to express much feeling at this impertinence. The castigation administered by Mr. Duckham to Surgeon-Major "Rip Van Winkle" so entirely effaces his attack that we really only feel a contemptuous pity for the M. D. who has apparently learnt nothing and forgotten nothing for about twenty years.

Good-bye Old Cow.

Good-bye, old cow, you've got to go,
Of course 'tis hard to tell you so,
For your forefathers and my own
For ages this old farm have known.

You're lank and flabby—to be brief,
You're fit for neither milk nor beef;
You yield but little at your best,
And then go dry six months at rest.

My neighbour farmers live with ease,
While I wear patches on my knees,
The reason, simple, plain, and true,
They've kept GOOD STOCK, while I kept YOU.

Such common scrubs no more I'll feed,
Henceforth I'll try a better breed,
I plainly see my error now—
You've got to go; good-bye old cow,

Cumberland and Westmoreland Advertiser.

A New Sheep-Shearing Machine:

A large New South Wales sheep farmer has now in operation in his shed a sheep-shearing implement which is driven by compressed air. It resembles a pair of ordinary horse clippers, and can be comfortably held in the hand. The motive power causes a small piston in the base of the handle of the machine to work backward and forward with extreme rapidity. The piston sets in motion a bar, which, working upon a pivot, causes the cutting teeth of the machine to oscillate very rapidly over the rigid teeth of the comb below. The cutting action is thus precisely the same as with horse clippers. A rigid metal pipe runs along the length of the shed, and each machine is connected to it by a flexible indiarubber tube. The air is turned on, the operator seizes his sheep and applies the machine, which is said to cut quite evenly; indeed, the fleece seems to fall off as if by magic.

An Extraordinary Fraud:

The Australian Mail brings particulars of the tragic ending of a sham doctor. Dr. H. A. Clowes, a visiting English physician, became acquainted in Sydney with a certain "Dr." Drummond, who enjoyed a large and fashionable practice in that city. Certain suspicious circumstances induced Dr. Clowes, on his return to England, to make enquiries, which resulted in the discovery that Dr. Edward Drummond, of Edinburgh and London, had his diplomas stolen in 1876 by his assistant, who was reported to have subsequently committed suicide. Communications were at once opened up with the Medical Society of New South Wales, and this body ordered an inquiry, whereupon the Sydney "Dr." Drummond, who had recently married an Australian lady of considerable wealth, vanished with £6,000 of his wife's money. He was caught at Colombo in Ceylon, but died immediately after being arrested, presumably from poison, self-administered. Thus ends a strange but true romance of the medical profession, embodying elements that in capable hands might be readily worked up into a sensational novel.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications for the Editor to be addressed 20 Fulham Road, S.W.

Original articles and reports should be written on one side only of the paper, and authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarily for publication.

We shall be obliged by early intelligence of all matters worth bringing under the notice of the profession, and thankful to any friends who may send us cuttings from local papers, containing facts of interest.

SOUND OR UNSOUND?

SIR,

I was pleased to see that Mr. Cox had, in his paper read at the Veterinary Medical Association, ventilated the present unsatisfactory condition of the veterinary profession. A state of things which, from practical experience, country veterinary surgeons will be sorry to admit is correct. How can the fact of too much competition which is injuring the profession socially and otherwise be remedied?

If the Council would take the matter up for d.scussion, probably some benefit would result. Electors should be careful not to vote at random when the papers are sent round selecting candidates for Council, but only return those who will benefit the profession generally.

Yours faithfully,
COUNTRY V.S.

OUR 'CANDID FRIEND' AGAIN.

SIR,

It is nearly half-a-year since you permitted me to candidly criticise your periodical, and I venture again to offer a few remarks.

First—I think you have more than fulfilled all our expectations. Only sanguine men had any hopes of your "survival"; that you exist is I suppose proof of your "fitness" (see Darwin). If your subscription list has reached the point at which you may be called self-supporting, you have proved something else but your "fitness." You have demonstrated that our profession really appreciates a "weekly," and contains a sufficient number of men to keep it going by useful and interesting contributions. Your contributors may well claim a share of the credit you deserve, for without them you could hardly supply the weekly material to support the journal.

Secondly—I may congratulate you on the occasional illustrations you give; I suppose they add to the cost a little, but they help to make things plain and clear, which the letterpress alone does not always succeed in doing. Your correspondence columns seem a little weak. I do not mean that they exhibit too little literary ability, I mean they don't seem to me earnest enough. One would have fancied that your pages would have always contained letters concerning some of the many professional subjects of general interest, about which there is room for difference of opinion, and which discussion might advance a step or two.

I would also ask you if you do not think the reports of Vet. Med. Soc's. might not be improved. The discussions do not always read very well, and there is always a lot of local business occupying space, which is quite uninteresting to the general members of the profession. Who cares to be told "the minutes were read and signed," or "a sum of money was devoted to the purchase of instruments." I suppose perhaps we ought to be thankful for the papers and discussions, and accept the other as an inevitable "excipient." Perhaps it is only fair to say I am a member of no Society.

How is it we never hear anything of the Schools? I think you ought not to have done away with the "Students' Column," as you might have got occasional letters in it, which would have thrown some light upon the interior of those institutions. You are also rather neglectful of foreign literature. Where are the extracts?

Yours truly,
A CANDID FRIEND.

Communications are acknowledged from Prof. McCall and Mr. Thos. Greaves.

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